

BROKEN LINKS

By Vandelia Varnum Thomas, Well-Known Lecturer and Writer, DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

Readers who are interested in the subject of last week, will always be glad to see something from the pen of Mr. Nelson. I take from recent date of "Charities and Commons" the following article. He is no amateur in this field and those who would cooperate with him must give large thought and willing service to the work. Notice this statement: "I have myself offered good cultivated land, fenced, with house, horse and cow, free of rent and made it fully known to city working people who knew me and my intentions, and found no takers." However, this brings no discouragement to him though it might to us.

To those less experienced with city people, but with considerable observation of country people, we find the same preference for a job rather than a patient making of a home on a farm. The truth is farming takes the most brains of anything going. Any man willing to work and willing to think even so much as our merchants are compelled to, will succeed anywhere on any soil. But our southerners are not overly ambitious in this direction. The one basic element necessary in every state they practically ignore, viz: the cow. Our western brothers transplanted to the south fails at the same point. To him cattle and grain are the only sources of wealth. Mind I say "cattle." The cow with her daily output of milk, butter, or cheese, means little to him. The middle and eastern men are generally so grounded in their methods that wholly new conditions spell failure. But any farmer coming here willing to work, to plow deep the gray matter as well as the sand, will find conditions many times easier and success sooner attained than in most states. Just the same, half of the people born and brought up here and two-thirds of our adopted citizens will deny this. Herein lie our greatest obstacles, the number of unbelieving speakers. If we could send these to the Philippines or the Tibitis Islands or the Sahara plains, all these sands that dimple our pretty state would roll over with joy. The day of our salvation would appear. But let Mr. Nelson speak.

From "Charities and Commons."
"The Farm a Conquest Cure."
By N. O. Nelson.

At the meeting of the New York Charity Organization Society on its twenty-fifth anniversary, a notable confession was made and a still more notable program promised. The confession was that twenty-five years of efficient work of that organization and its allies found New York in worse condition than it was at the beginning and that the census and the census had revealed the larger opportunity of preventing the congestion which increased the demand for charity and beggary. The promise was that

hereafter efforts would be made to turn the tide of immigrants and urban population away from the cities into the vacant and roomy country, to the farms and villages.

Nothing so important as these announcements from so authoritative a source has emanated from any public body. Practically all of the experienced speakers concurred in this attitude. The growing hopelessness of dealing with congestion, poverty and tenement housing in the large cities forces us to the alternative of keeping the people away from the cities.

As a city grows, the crowding and the rents increase. "In 1900," said Florence Kelley, "the district in New York below Fourteenth street was the most densely populated in the world. Yet it holds now 89,000 more people than in 1900." Many of the old tenements have been replaced with new ones under the model ordinances, but the crowding is worse than before and the rents higher. The simple and hard truth of the matter is that a city is in itself a social blunder. The charity workers may paraphrase General Sherman's verdict on war, and say, "A city is hell, and you can't refine it." Post Morris in News from Nowhere wiped London out of existence, reserving only the houses of parliament and a few of the larger buildings as warehouses for manure and other coarse wares.

It is no easy task to stem the tide toward the cities, for there is not one, but many influences drawing people there. Mostly, it is a job, the belief that in the big city there is room for one more. The higher wages entice, the crowd and the gaslights attract in a less degree than is supposed. Most country people tire of the noise and the crowd in a day.

The ready-made jobs, the ready-made housing and supplies, contrasting with the responsibility and the looking ahead of the country is by all odds the fascination that draws from farm to factory, from independence to dependence, from the roominess of the wide country to the cramped streets and tenements. The problem of damming the stream is a big one. I know none more serious and difficult and none so important.

The people who write about land hunger, the single taxers who lay the blame on the monopoly of the land, assume facts that do not exist. The great majority of countrybred people prefer the country and stay there. Some of these buy more land to invest their money or to increase their possessions, just as prosperous business and professional men do. But a general human craving for owning land to farm and live on, does not exist, it is a matter of choice of work and profit and environment. The landless man in country or city can get land if he wants it. There is no

Some Pointed as Well
as Eloquent Comment
on Current Events ::

state in the Union and probably no county in which farms cannot be bought for about the value of the improvements and on the easiest terms of payment. There are farms almost anywhere to be rented on shares with or without teams and supplies from which the industrious and frugal worker can soon buy and pay for the farm and stock, very much easier than our frontier settlers ever did. The empty handed from the city can do this and get enough wage work to live on while raising their first crop. When we see the rush to locate claims at the sales of Indian reservations, the conclusion is natural that land hunger is the motive. The truth is that in nine cases out of ten, it is speculation, the hope of getting a thousand dollars' worth for two hundred dollars and somewhat also the gambling spirit, hoping to be a winner in the crowd. I happened at Provo, Utah, when the Utah reservation was open for filing. There were 5,200 quarter sections, of which probably 1,000 were fit for irrigation, the remainder was mountainous and worthless. There were over 30,000 filings—a lottery gamble to draw the one prize in thirty Oklahoma was settled, not by the landless, but by the enterprising farmer of Kansas, Missouri and Iowa, who got better land for \$1.25 an acre than his own, which he could sell for \$30 or \$40 an acre.

All over the old south there is farming land at from \$5 to \$15 an acre. Much of it is good, all of it is better than New England land, which has fed and educated the sturdiest people of the states. In many cases, the improvements are worth the price, and the farm is ready for immediate cropping. I have, myself, offered good cultivated land, fenced, with house, horse and cow, free of rent and made it fully known to city working people who knew me and my intention and found no takers.

Undoubtedly some townspeople can be drawn to the country and in most cases they would be satisfied and stay, but it will require special management in each attempt to do it. Many peasant immigrants would doubtless be glad of the opportunity and would be easily taught.

But here arises the next and greatest difficulty, the leaders and teachers, are needed and these would prevent the drifting land and attract some from the cities and factories, the settlement worker and the charity organization.

Another way and perhaps more practicable, is to so improve the country that farmers will not farm so badly or live so extravagantly as to lose their farms and seek a wage job

in town or city. Social organization, road making, home beautifying, school improvement, co-operation associations, are needed and these would prevent the drifting land and attract some from the cities and factories, the settlement worker and the charity organization.

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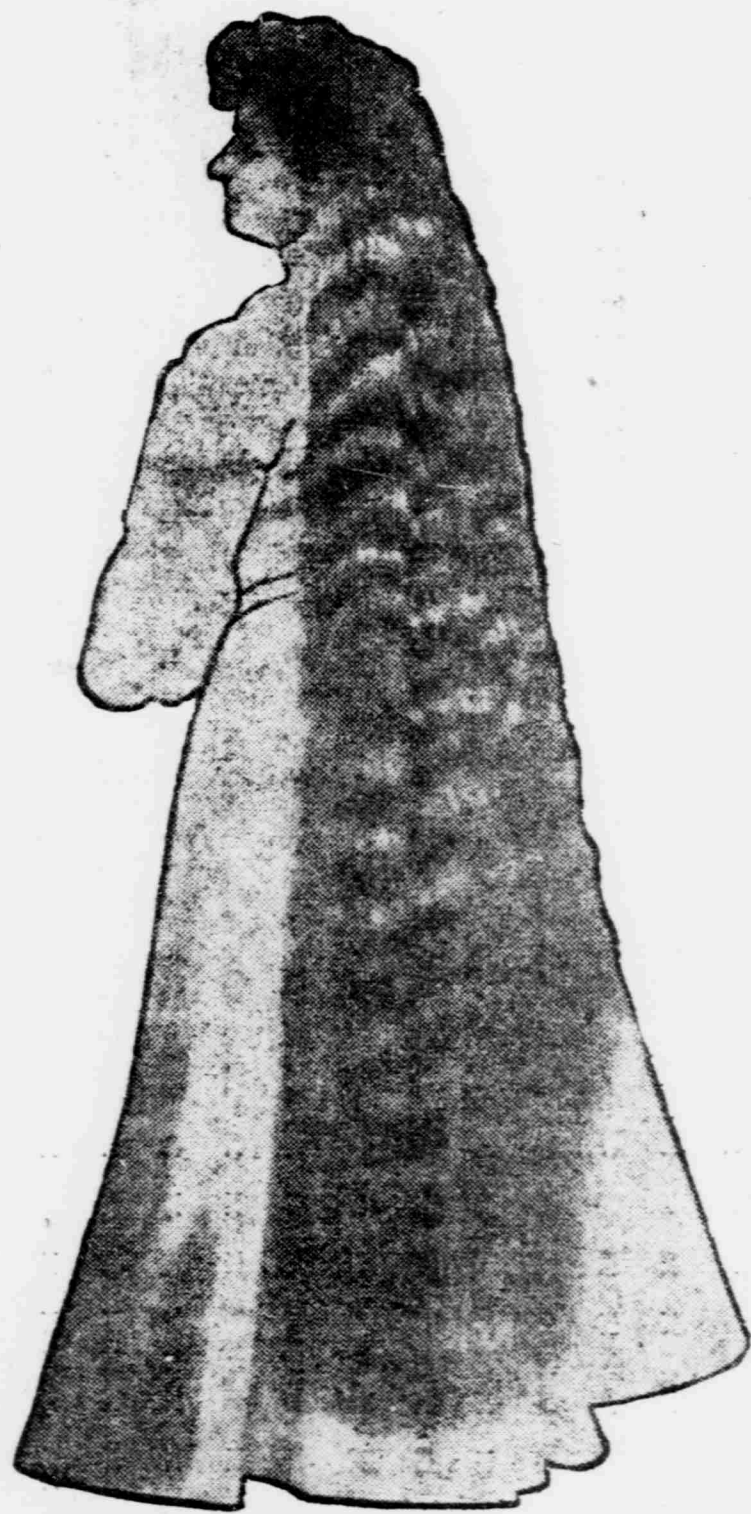
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Committing the Monkey.

"Jersey Justice" has long been famed for its speed, but if the state produces many more freak cases like one that cropped out last week its courts are likely to become known for something besides celerity. A live monkey is a regularly committed inmate of the State House for Boys at Jamesburg. Not long ago the monkey's owner, an Italian, was sent to the state prison from South river. What to do with "da monk" was a question for the law officers, until one of them hit upon the happy idea of committing him to the state home. The papers were made out by a sheriff, and the monkey was accepted and receipted for in due form by the superintendent of the home. Pedro lives for two weeks at a time with each of the groups of "families" of boys in the institution.

NO USE TO DIE.

"I have found out that there is no use to die of lung trouble as long as you can get Dr. King's New Discovery," says Mrs. J. P. White of Rushboro, Pa. "I would not be alive today only for that wonderful medicine. It loosens up a cough quicker than anything else, and cures lung disease even after the case is pronounced hopeless." This most reliable remedy for coughs and colds, lagrippe, asthma, bronchitis and hoarseness, is sold under guarantee at all druggists, 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Fighting Frauds.

In September there will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, the "first international congress for the repression of alimentary and pharmaceutical frauds." The initiative of the movement had been taken by the Universal Society of the White Cross of Geneva, under the auspices of the society the congress presents itself and is recommended to attention. Such an undertaking is in conformity with the aim pursued by the Society of the White Cross, which was formed to group all the efforts being made to fight infectious diseases, epidemics, alcoholism, plume in all countries, in view of fighting tuberculosis, pneumonia and poisoning through alimentary frauds. The congress initiated by that society is the first of its kind; it is regarded as made necessary by the increasing progress of fraudulent alimentary drugs.

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